

6949

Susan Fiveson

Darien, CT 06820

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Dear Senator Terry Gerratana, Representative Matt Ritter and members of Public Health Committee.

My name is Susan Fiveson. I'm a concerned Connecticut parent and I am writing to urge you to NOT SUPPORT HB 6949. This bill will require parents or guardians who, due to religious beliefs, object to vaccination and therefore must submit a notarized statement they "have reviewed and understand information regarding risks of both immunization and failure to immunize." I oppose this proposed bill because it violates parents and guardians' First Amendment rights to free exercise of their religious beliefs. Connecticut should not create substantive requirements for a parent/guardian to exercise their religious beliefs when taking exemption to vaccination.

Connecticut has one of the highest vaccination rates of any state. And no one has even attempted to make a case that religious exemptions are resulting in increased levels of disease. This bill is an added expense to all involved and violates First Amendment religious rights.

Connecticut religious exemption laws aren't broken, please protect our First Amendment right of freedom to religion and do not support HB 6949.

Thank You for your time.

-Susan Fiveson

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